

A Newspaper Devoted to the Welfare of All Workers by Hand or Brain

# The Canadian Railroader Weekly

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## THE WATERWORKS' STRIKE

ACCORDING to the newspapers a gang of roughnecks, who have heretofore done us the service of firing the boilers to run the pumps which supply the benevolent city of Montreal with enough water to furnish each citizen with an annual bath, even if the big village itself it allowed to remain pestilentially dirty, have gone on a rampage.

Now it is quite permissible for all classes of society to rampage to heart's content—all classes, except the working class. The opinion of every newspaper is that it is the first duty of a workman to himself, his family, and his country, to be docile, languid, and dreamy and to accept with meek humility whatever vicissitudes the snickering upper classes may decide to shovel upon his bowed and bleeding back. The one great cardinal sin is to go on a rampage, is to rebel, is to revolt

against unbearable conditions. He must stand like a dumb ox until he wallows in the gore of his own slaughter.

Other classes may indulge in all sorts of rampages and no great commotion is excited. The swagger crowds dash into the big hotels on New Year's Eve, wrapped in furs that would make a grisly bear feel naked, after which they slide out upon the dance floor as if there were a swimming pool close by. The music is syncopated by popping corks at \$10.00 a shot. Suddenly the hubbub ceases; a form resembling a woman slips out from the folds of a waving curtain. It's a shimmy dance; the naughty, haughty shimmy. A red ink drinker might see a snake dance in the third act of the delirium tremens that would offer satisfactory comparison. The only thing that I have ever seen to compare was in the days of split skirts

when a knock-kneed woman slipped on a banana peel in front of the Drummond Building. The shimmy performance convulsed the audience with irrepressible glee. A dyspeptic sitting near me said 'Rah, Rah', twice and collapsed. A peroxide blonde threw a faint and was revived by another drink. One fat lady cracked a false tooth and snapped a corset string. The devil was sure afoot, and the upper class was on a rampage. Most of the masculine sex were in full dress — they were quite full, I will agree. As to the dress, some explanation is in order.

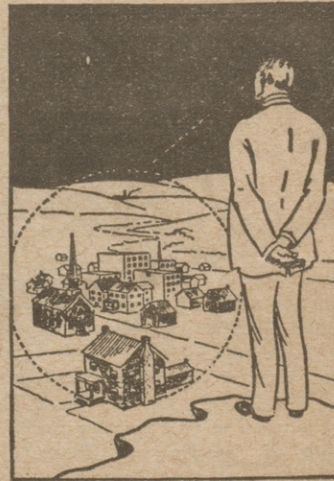
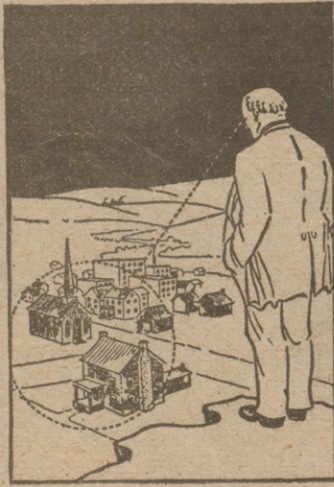
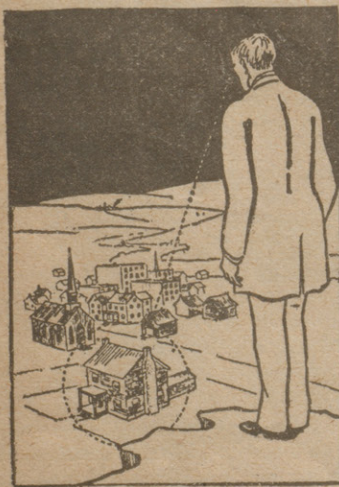
A gentleman is supposed to be distinguishable on all occasions. Nearly all of the really good-looking men in the room were waiters. Presuming that they rented their habiliments at the same haberdashery, you will admit that the complications were serious. The mystery was cleared up, however, when the management passed around paper caps of various hues which only the guests were permitted to don. The gentlemen thus became automatically separated, as it

were, from the merely handsome waiters in attendance. It's quite a lark, isn't it? It is just a rampage for a night. Nearly all big newspaper men were there, knee-deep in the fun. Naturally the press took a good-humored view of the situation. Society on a rampage. Just to dispel the ennui.

I said there were all sorts and kinds and brands of rampages. The frenzied financier precipitates himself into Wall Street, persists in doing a lot of reckless and obnoxious things, smashes a few banks, wrecks a few railroads, ruins a few thousand lives, organizes a young army of widows with independent children and fills the orphanages with litters of the men and women who have blown out their brains through the smash. But it is merely a financier on a rampage.

Again the press is very condescending. It won't tell you of the widows and the orphans. Oh, no! You will be told of the millions that the financier has made. Much will be written of his sagacity, his fore-

(Continued on page 4)



### CIRCLES OF VISION

The man whose circle of vision encompasses only his own home makes a pretty poor citizen. The man who cannot see beyond home and church cannot understand the society of which he is a part. Community selfishness may have elements of public spirit but still falls short of good citizenship. It is the man with city-, province-, nation-, and world-wide vision to whom the community owes most.



# Our OTTAWA LETTER

The capital offered no news worthy of record in the closing week of the year. Following the excitement of the late Cabinet crisis a dull torpor succeeded and many Ministers were out of town on a vacation. It is now reported that Sir Robert Borden may sail for South Africa with Lord Jellicoe on January and enjoy the benefits of a long sea voyage but nothing is definitely settled. If he desires complete rest, he should take the chance thus offered, for as long as he stays on this continent he will not be beyond the reach of telegrams from his distracted colleagues or even visits from Mr. J. D. Reid. The amnesty to the defaulters under the M. S. A. and military prisoners was a timely act of clemency and there is some criticism in Ottawa that Mr. Raney has declined to extend it to veterans who are in prison for offences under the Ontario Temperance Act.

Comparatively speaking this country is at present a cosy corner of the world. In many other lands the year 1920 closes in darkness and gloom. Mr. J. A. Spender, the Editor of the Westminster Gazette, has lately related how in the early days of August, 1914, he went one evening to the Foreign Office in London and talked to a high authority there, (almost certainly the reference is to Lord Grey). This statesman was in deep despair over the war which had just become certain and said to Mr. Spender, "I can see the lights of Europe going out one by one ere it ends".

Today the lights are out in many a region of Europe. From the Rhine to the Urals there is a mass of human misery and suffering which has no parallel since the ferocious Thirty Years war and even was infinitely smaller in volume on account of the lower density of population. Germany is stricken to her knees and this once puissant state, shorn of one tenth of her territory and faced with enormous burdens of indemnities, finds great difficulty in providing a bare sustenance for her population. The moderate socialist government which is in power finds it hard but to maintain stability in face of a threatened militarist reaction on the one hand and a bitter uprising of the half-starved workers on the other. And now there has arisen a disquieting crisis over the ratification of the Peace Treaty. The Germans assert that they cannot afford to hand over all the dock equipment demanded as a penalty for the sinking of the fleet at Scapa Flow, and they ask that France release the German prisoners of war whom she is still keeping a force labor. France burns with a bitter spirit of revenge and Marshal Foch and the military chiefs want to seize the excuse of delay in ratification, to march triumphantly into Berlin and occupy permanently all the left bank of the Rhine. Britain to her credit

stands out for moderation and sanity.

In a diary written in Germany this year, a Canadian staff officer, probably Sir Andrew Macphail, the Editor, himself, expresses his fear that the passionate Celtic nature of the French will insist on an unwise peace certain to sow the seeds of future wars and the wish that the Anglo-saxon nations who have the greater fund of statesmanship, should take the whole business of peace making into their own hands.

Unfortunately the sacrifices of France have given her a privileged position and she is using her to impose the settlement which her Imperialists desire. Mr. Clémenceau was a good maker of war, but the very qualities which had made him this render him a bad framer of peace. As a result the people of the Central Empires have been treated to the policy of "Woe to the conquered"; little attention has been paid to the famous "Fourteen Points" of President Wilson on which they placed reliance and the blockade has been rigorously enforced against them till a recent date. They have been unable to secure the raw materials necessary to set their industrial life in motion again and a result destitution and unemployment have been widespread. A traveller recently returned from Vienna gives the following account of the state of affairs in that once prosperous city:

"In these last weeks the gradually increasing misery of the masses and of the broad middle class has been developed into what must be called the slow dying of the population of one of the oldest greatest and most civilised towns in Europe. The climax has apparently been reached when in the last few days it became publicly known that even the small official rations of flour and bread being themselves not sufficient to keep men, women and children in anything like a vigorous state of health could not be given out for more than half, all reserves of the municipalities being consumed and new imports of foodstuffs failing to come in. It is not difficult to imagine what under these general conditions of life the sufferings of the poorest of the poor, and the weakest of the weak ones what the fate of the children of Vienna must be. Every fresh month increases the really appalling misery and helplessness of the children of all ages in this most unhappy town. By a statistical inquiry arranged in this year by the school teachers it has been stated that there are in Vienna 20 per cent. of all the counted children in a medium state of nourishment; 67 per cent. are under this level and only 9 per cent. of the children are considered to be in a state of uninjured physical condition."

Yet this is only one example of conditions which prevail in vast areas. They are reproduced in Pol-

and, Hungary, Finland and the small Baltic states in varying degrees. Even countries like Serbia and Roumania, which were on the winning side in the war are in little better plight. Italy is engaged in a bitter quarrel over Fiume with the Jugoslav and is threatened with a revolutionary upheaval at home. Her Socialist party made enormous gains at last election and have entered into negotiations with the Bolsheviks. The latter have now foiled all attempts at their suppression by the various Russian forces whom the Allies were assisting with subsidies and men. The policy of intervention, has simply consolidated the whole of the people of central Russia behind Lenin and Trotsky and their new system of social and governmental association still exists as a nightmare to the powers that be in Britain and France. France mourns her million and a half dead and sees no prospect of restoring her shattered finances. In Britain the recovery has been better especially in Scotland and the North of England but London and the South remain war fevered and prone to dissipation and dislike of settled work according to observers lately returned. Ireland still remains an insoluble problem and a standing reproach to British statesmanship. A measure of Home Rule has been granted to India, but there is unrest and discontent in every province. In recent disturbances at Amritsar 500 people were killed by soldiers firing on a mob of rioters. Egypt presents similar symptoms of disaffection with British rule and there seems no end to the long tale of disorders and confusions in every quarter of the globe. The British Commonwealth holds together by the common loyalties and sympathies of its white inhabitants, but it is far from the stable fabric that it ought to be. In the main, however, it is the most beneficent force in the world today and its peoples are more than willing to do their share in setting this stricken universe on its feet again.

More and more it is plain that if Europe is not to sink back into a welter of barbarism there must be a vast international effort to assist



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the rehabilitation of the economic organisations of half a dozen countries. Competent authorities assert that unless help of this kind on an enormous scale is tendered 15,000,000 souls over and above the average deathrate will perish on the European continent ere this winter ends. People who live on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean have every reason to count their lot fortunate.

Here in Canada we have much to be thankful for, but also many things to give us grave concern. There are thousands of homes in our midst over which the shadow of bereavement through the chances of war still hangs and thousands of men and women for whom life has been thereby spoilt. But heavy as they were, our casualties were light compared with those of other communities—Scotland with half our population has 100,000 dead—and lighter in proportion than Australia's losses. Our industrial life derived great impetus from the manufacture of munitions during the war and gained both in extent and efficiency. Prices for food products were high and despite serious crop failures in certain areas many farmers made money in the last five years. This year wholesalers and retailers agree in saying that the Christmas trade is better than ever before, the banks have lots of money, the places of amusement are thronged, and there is an air of surface prosperity and well-being, which might give cause for satisfaction to the rulers of our country.

It is true that we have incurred the burden of an enormous public debt, but our financial pundits assure us that as by far the major portion of it is held within our own bounds it is as much an asset as a liability. If pessimists point to our adverse exchange rate with the U. S., the retort is made that it has its virtues as it affords protection to our manufacturers, and will induce people to buy domestic products. It



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is true that our great area of boom and expansion has come to an end. Development of our country will proceed but at a soberer and safer pace; we have already through the war enjoyed a most valuable respite, which has enabled us in some measure to bring our educational and social machinery up to the needs of our expanded material development. We are now practically clear of all the entanglements and commitments of the European struggle, we accepted the responsibilities of our situation and played a worthy part in the contest, and we are now free to pick up the old threads of our national life again.

It was not to be expected that this life could not be vitally affected by the wide-world upheaval and it will be for the historian and philosophic sociologist yet unborn to pass judgment on whether the late conflict brought for us a balance of good or evil. It has left a permanent legacy of other traditions that the glory of materialist exploits like building railways or floating mergers, success in which six years ago was sedulously held out to the youth of Canada as the proper goal of their ambition is not enough. Today the humblest private in the Princess Pat's is an object of higher popular esteem than our richest porkpackers or most multiple director of companies.

But against this there has been a certain debasement of moral values. The necessity for maintaining a national partisan solidarity and the subtle influence of the specious innovation called propaganda have brought about an almost settled habit of distortion of the truth to suit immediate ends with all save the scrupulously upright of our press and politicians. Many of them were none too particular in their practice

before, but the war enhanced all the evil features. The sense of fairness and impartiality, the willingness to listen to the other side, the inclination to see some iota of good instead of a totality of evil in one's opponent became a settled habit and it has passed over into the time of peace. Never were moral values so low in our public life, seamy though many of its aspects in the past have been.

Some observers attribute this setback to the decay of religion, which has been sadly receding in influence, at least outside of the French-Canadian territory, but that is not the whole story. The real root of the evil lies in the fact that as a community we have no settled ideals or aspirations. We were told during the war by thousands of patriotic voices that a new world was to be born for Canada out of Armageddon and for some of us the old one was not so pleasant or creditable that its disappearance would cause many tears.

What we had done prior to the war was to accept the challenge of the wilderness and by almost incredible labors provide the northern half of the North American continent with the physical machinery of civilization. Other triumphs to our credit we had none. The telephone, it is true, was invented by one of our citizens, but when Ralph Connor was our foremost writer to the outer world we could not claim the possession of a literature. Art lived a struggling life in cases and no original political or social conception had emanated from our shores. The new world which we were promised it must be better than if it was to be satisfactory.

It was talked about in plenty but the phrases were vague and soon

palled. No leader, spiritual or political, arose to give his picture of what our new Canadian world should be and by what methods it should be shaped and we fell back in common it must be confessed with many other countries including our southern neighbors, into the old policy of drift along a torpid sea of materialism. We have no definite aims or aspirations. Our destinies are guided by what is called "policy". There was a long controversy last century as to whether science or religion should be guiding force in human affairs, but in most modern states neither has prevailed and if there is one ruling power today, it is "policy". Now policy in the hands of our rulers is assuredly in no way connected with religion whatever may be the aspirations and delusions of Mr. Rowell and his school of would-be moralists. Our notions of policy as expressed by our public men reflect the ideals for an acquisitive society and the greed of localities groups and classes. They are meshed in the meaner arts of vote-catching and election ring and are polluted with every brand of individual and party ambition. Their fruits are intrigue, jealousy and strife and they are poles removed from the Spirit of the Sermon on the Mount. On the other hand "policy" is far too completely at the mercy of passion, ignorance and caprice, far too deeply involved in the secondary interests of parties and far too much bound up with the private fortunes and plans of prominent politicians to be deserving of the epithet scientific, in any sense of the word.

Yet the men who lead us today are the politicians, the authors and agents of "policy". Their work which consists of devising policies and framing laws to make them ef-

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fective is work which counts and on which deeply vital issues depend. But the only motive to which they acknowledge any difference is the purely utilitarian and material, which of all human motives is the weakest for permanent good. One can scan in vain the speeches of the last six Sessions in all our legislatures and fail to find more than a rare passage in which a high moral or humanitarian note is struck. If such a note is struck at once goes up the howl of "Cut out the sentiment" which is a sure sign that the meanest sentiments hold the field sentiments which bring the world to deathdealing strife. Lower public and private morality bring men and women to sell their souls and ideals for petty gain. Nothing is so abundantly clear than that both Canada and the world at large will pursue a futile and troubled existence, depriving their citizens of much that is best in life until some noble sentiment and better national ideal displaces the base ones now dominant.

We hear that the country yearns for great leaders, but it need faithful followers for the lead they will give if they appear and there will be neither the one nor the other until there is a wholesale change of heart among the mass of our people. Our army won us for great glory on the field of battle but a nation cannot live either by that or bread alone. The building up of a civilization, says George Russell the great Irish philosopher and co-operative leader, is at once the most interesting and practical of human tasks. It lies before the people of Canada and we have so far only scratched out a rather shallow foundation. What we should as a people set ourselves resolutely to do is to build up a civilization which will give us a settled primacy in the art of life, attract immigrants in thousands to our shores and make us a model for the other nations to imitate. It involves it is true, many changes and sacrifices and will only be attained after many setbacks and disappointments.

But the task cannot be begun until there is a wholesale clearance from the seats of government of the great majority of our present politicians, whose sole accomplishment is the artful manipulation of low motives and the substitution in their place of leaders who are animated by high motives and possessed of sufficient driving power to win practical acceptance for their ideals. If the year 1920 offers any opportunities to assist in this preliminary task, they should not be lost by the people of Canada.

J. A. S.



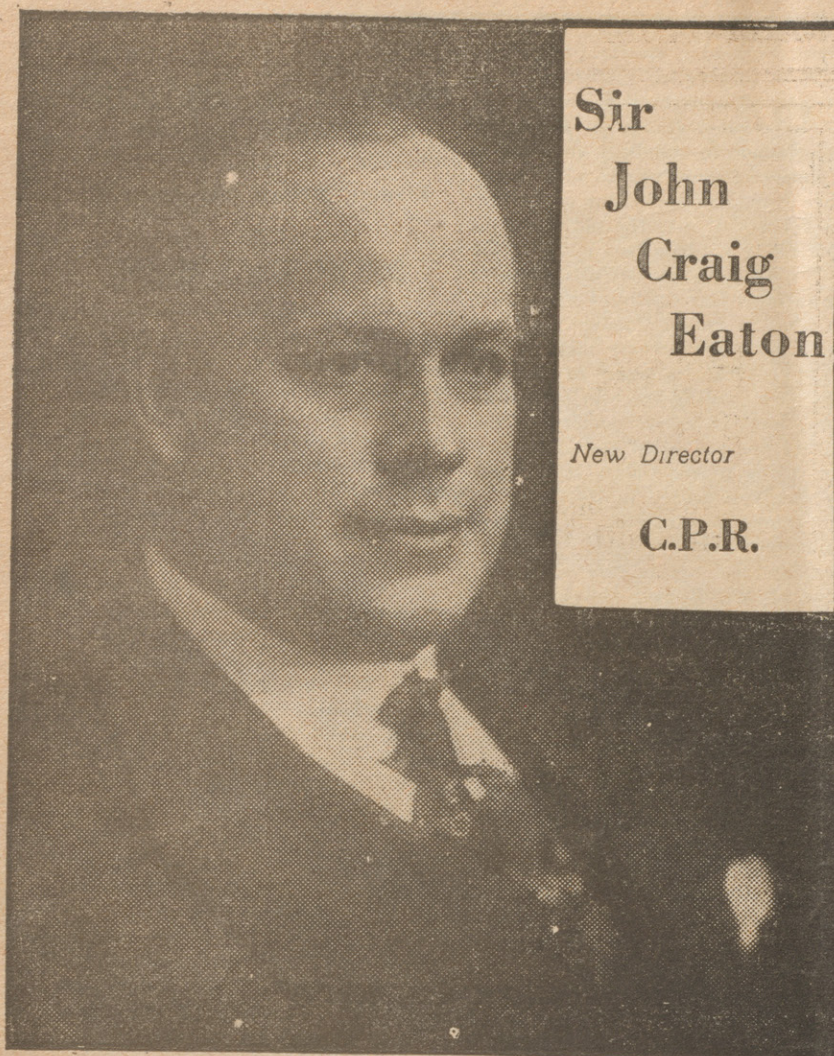
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C.P.R.

Honorary Colonel Sir John Craig Eaton, K.B., whose appointment to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's directorate has been just announced, is best known to the mass of the American public as president and dominant personality of the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. of Toronto and Winnipeg, the largest departmental institution of the Dominion, for which his father, the late Timothy Eaton, fifty years ago laid the foundation. In official circles Sir John is even better known as probably the foremost Canadian in civilian co-operation with the forces of government during the war period. And in the realm of trade he leads as an exponent of scientific organization, while at the same time recognizing the human equation in the labor factor.

Sir John was born in Toronto April 28, 1876, receiving his education in the public schools of his native city and Upper Canada College. He began his commercial career with his father's growing establishment, the business of which has more than doubled in volume under his administration, his individual foresight leading to the opening of the Western house at Winnipeg in 1905, and the Moncton, N.B., outpost this past season. In addition to being president of the T. Eaton Co., he is director of the Dominion Bank, the Canadian National Exhibition Association, and Wellesley Hospital; a member of the Senate of Victoria College, Toronto; an honorary governor, trustee and member of the Finance Committee of the Toronto General Hospital; a member of the Toronto Board of Trade and of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association; also one of Canada's best known clubmen and sportsmen, with yachting, fishing and motoring as his favorite forms of recreation. Political honors, though proffered like Caesar's crown, he has time again refused.

Knighted June 3, 1915, he was incidentally the recipient on Sept., 19th, 1917 of the special decoration of the Navy League, this being an exceptional honor conferred on but twenty-eight persons in all the Empire within the past twenty years. In partial explanation it will be remembered that early in the war Sir John turned over to the Admiralty his fine private yacht, the Florence, which served on the Atlantic Coast patrol under the ensign until no longer required, in the late autumn of 1916. During the war period he also organized, equipped and sent overseas the Eaton Machine gun batteries; while over \$1,000,000 of his private fortune was expended in the maintenance of dependents of Eatonians at the front, the weekly payroll exceeding \$10,000. Two thousand six hundred and eighty-two voluntary recruits went from the T. Eaton Co.'s establishments to the war—a man-power little short of three complete battalions—this splendid body representing 39.25 per cent of the company's male employees. And while the men were fighting for flag and freedom, Sir John provided liberally for their families at home, this wage roll of patriotism exceeding \$2,000,000 in the ultimate total.

The inclusion of Sir John Eaton on the Canadian Pacific directorate gives that pioneer national transcontinental road not only another experienced business general capable of and accustomed to thinking and acting in large proportions. It also gives it a man who perhaps more than any other in the Dominion believes in the application of the Golden Rule to everyday affairs and has proven recognition of the human equation to be successful policy, in the operation of his own large concerns.

## The Waterworks' Strike

(Continued from page 1)

sight, his business ingenuity, his great financial Genius. And why not — it is merely a financier on a rampage, and any respectable, wealthy financier is entitled to an occasional rampage.

Now it is the churches. They are on a rampage. You must do this and you must not do that. If you persist in doing it you will be damned. My own contention is that in about 95 per cent of the cases you will be damned if you do. You must be dry, bone-dry. You must be smokeless. Different churches, at different times, have indulged in all sorts of rampages, on all sorts of topics, from witchcraft to astronomy, from drink to powder and rouge, from women to sacred bulls, from Japanese spit balls to Chinese incense, from holy-rollers to industrial Dowieism, from hari-kiri to kosher meat. The churches, only the churches, are on a rampage. It's quite all right, the editors will tell you.

But the workman? Oh no! No rampage for him! He must stay right in the traces, no matter how rough the road and docilely pull the burdens that are heaped upon him by thoughtless, selfish society.

Now let us consider the waterworks' strife. The minimum pay is \$85.00 and the maximum \$120.00 a month. If you are very clever, if you can assume the responsibility of caring for and nursing complicated machinery worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, if you can be entrusted day in and day out to do your duty, rain or shine, to keep the great masses of the people, supplied with a necessity of life—if you can fill this bill the great, commercially prosperous, important port of Montreal will give you \$85. to \$120 a month, provided you have passed your examination as a thoroughly competent engineer. Of course you must exonerate the city of Montreal from any responsibility for the high cost of living, which admittedly demands \$1,975.00 from you each year if you are to rear your family; that is, if you are to live by means of feeding, clothing and sheltering a family of five. Now please understand that the men in the waterworks are only human beings, just working men. They have to pay cash for what they get, they cannot issue long-time notes. So it became quite a problem how a man, with a family, who only received \$1,020.00 a year could continue to shovel coal into the furnaces when he did not get enough food to put into his own belly; in plain terms, — in his own belly, so that his arms may be strong enough to shovel the food into the belly of the waterworks organism.

So naturally the matter was taken up in June last with the authorities of the grand metropolis of the city of Montreal. Naturally anything so great and grand as the city of Montreal can be expected to move with a stately, restrained grandeur befitting its dignified importance. Eight months have slipped away while the city, so to speak, was adjusting its

composure. Meat and grocery bills have a tantalizing way of dancing along on the ticks of time to the C. O.D. tune. The day finally came, and it had to come, when the larder was empty, the human boiler had run down, the human machinery had collapsed, the crisis was here, and the men walked out — crawled out on their empty bellies back to foodless homes.

And some newspapers call this a crime.

Others rage, and roar, some shriek, all scream, and all damn the human machine that had reached its limitations, the human furnace for which the city fathers failed and refused to find the fuel, although there was plenty of fuel for the mechanical machines to pump the pumps that were to give our precious bodies and our homes the supply of water needed.

The fact is, my friends, that there is no fault with the men. The fact is that the city administration had seven months in which to do simple justice to the men involved in this strike. The fact is that these men are asked to perform an important public service while starving upon their tottering legs. The fact is that the attitude of the press has been absolutely vile. The fact is that in the hearts of workmen rancor and a deep sense of injustice burns. The attack of the public press upon the efforts of these men, after seven long months of waiting for amelioration of their unbearable conditions, should have the condemnation of every right-thinking citizen in this city. For what earthly reason should the press of this city pounce upon a few workmen and denounce them as a set of hoodlums, as a gang of men ready to imperil the lives of the citizens of this city merely to gain their own selfish ends, when the facts of the case clearly show that they cannot exist upon the meagre, squalid wages paid by the city? No explanation is forthcoming. I do not know the reason. I cannot imagine the reason for these vitriolic attacks. They say God knows, but I am not sure that He knows.

MORAL: If you want water famine pay the men wages of famine. If you want a good water supply pay the men a living wage, not hypocritically, but in money, real money.

George Pierce.

## DRUG CLERK GAINS

Through their strike which ended last week the New York city drug clerks made progress towards a reduction of the long working hours of which all druggists complain. The union obtained agreements with the pharmaceutical associations in two districts, Bronx county and Brownsville in Brooklyn, providing for the nine-hour day and \$45 a week for registered pharmacists, with an \$18 minimum for juniors. Large numbers of individual stores especially on the East Side, have also granted the nine-hour day and wage increases. No concessions were obtained from the chain stores. A unique incident of the strike was the offer of a group of physicians to arbitrate the dispute. The employers, however, rejected arbitration.



## LABOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH

While the British medical profession is at odds about the proposition to affiliate with the trade union movement, and while the local health authorities have adopted a waiting attitude since the establishment of the Ministry of Health, the British Labor Party seems to be the only one that has come out with a definite, constructive plan for the reconstruction of national health activities and for the socialization of the medical profession.

This plan is described in more or less detail in the Memoranda prepared by the Advisory Committee on Public Health of the Labor Party. Starting out with the premise that "health is a national concern and disease a national danger, hence, the preservation of the health of every individual, rich or poor, should be undertaken by the nation collectively," the party proposes a "reorganization of the whole mechanism of medical service and a reconstruction of the preventative and curative medical services and hospital and laboratory systems, under a Ministry of Health." The proposed activities of the national health service include the following:

1. Public health service, which is a continuation of work of existing municipal and county public health services, including the inspection of food and nuisances and largely dealing with material environment and infection.

2. Domiciliary and nursing service, largely directing its attention to the care of expectant mothers, infants and young children in the pre-school age, and the general care of cases which are usually treated at home; this includes a complete service of doctors, health visitors, nurses and midwives, working on preventative and curative lines.

3. School health service, organized on present lines but much more amply provided with trained nurses and facilities to teach the school children personal hygiene.

4. Industrial health service to take complete care of the health of the twelve million persons engaged in industry; with whole time and part time medical officers; with supervision of working conditions in every industrial establishment and detecting disease early wherever possible; with committees for inquiring causes of accidents and sickness; with a research staff to receive special training in physiology and hygiene and to make special studies of causes of fatigue, etc.

5. Research service for general medical and hygienic research and work in preventive medicine.

6. Hospital and clinical service providing an adequate number of

hospital beds for those requiring institutional treatment, with an increase of beds from two to five per thousand population, according to locality; the public hospitals to become the health centres for each local health authority and providing accommodation for all medical activities.

The Labor Party likewise proposes radical changes in the principles underlying the administration of the proposed health activities and in the organization of the medical administration. In the first place, the party puts it as a fundamental principle that the health state service should be under democratic control both at headquarters and at every local centre.

It further proposes that all medical service should be absolutely free and open to all, this including all the various health activities as outlined above, and that all hospitals, laboratories, preventoria, etc., should be organized nationally and locally, each local hospital serving as an institute of health and part of the national health service.

An important requirement is that in the organization of the medical profession "the doctors within the area and not the single practitioner should form the unit of medical service and each such medical unit should have control over its own local professional affairs and be linked up to all the units within the area and be responsible for the health of the area it serves." A further requirement is that the staff of the unit should not stay in its headquarters awaiting disease to knock at its doors, but should set about investigating the origin of disease, teach the laws of healthy living to its community and see that healthy conditions are maintained wherever human beings congregate.

According to the scheme of the Labor Party, the medical service should be so organized as to attract to the profession the best brains of the community, and the scale of compensation should be adequate to the importance of the services rendered with provision for pension and retirement. There should be engaged separate medical staffs for preventative and for clinical work. The clinical staff of each health authority should be composed of the following whole-time officers: chief medical officers; general practitioners; consulting specialists and dentists; medical staffs of the hospitals; scientific consultants in various branches of medicine; resident medical officers of hospitals; and medical officers in charge of special clinics and treatment centres.

A provision is made that the general practitioners shall work in groups around a hospital or treatment centre; that no practitioner shall be called upon to have under his charge more than 3,500 persons in urban districts and 2,000 in rural districts, and that the inhabitants within an area administered by one group of the medical practitioners shall be entitled to choose any practitioner within that group.



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## OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

Glasgow, December 20th.

Opening a new Labor Hall, Mr. J. Thomas, M.P., expressed his conviction that after the next election Labor would have a majority over any other section in Parliament. The Premier was rallying round the Coalition all interests to which Labor was opposed, and Labor would take up the challenge. No greater mistake was ever made than to suppose that Labor was going to govern only in the interests of the working classes. The only people whom they excluded from their definition of Labor were those who contributed nothing either by hand or brain to the well-being of the community. The difficulty of those earning a fixed income at the present day was real and genuine, and Labor quarrelled with no policy intended to deal with that situation. But the middle classes must understand that Labor had to pass through a hard and bitter struggle to obtain every privilege it enjoyed today, and the middle classes should help. There are many today who conscientiously believe that the only hope of the workers is in industrial and not political action.

He would lay it down as a cardinal principle that the strike weapon was an inherent power of which Labor must not be deprived, but he believed that nothing could be more fatal to industrial and political movements alike than merely to shout every day that the strike was the only thing with which they were concerned. To those who said that they had lost their faith in the political machine he would reply that the political machine had never been tested. The mission of the Labor Party was to show the way to social emancipation. It would make mistakes, for the perfect man was the perfect fool, and the man who never made a mistake never made anything.

But the world today demonstrated the mistakes of the present governing class, and it would be impossible to make a bigger muddle of things than they had done. There were difficult and anxious days ahead for those entrusted with responsibility and leadership. The world is in a turmoil, full of misery and sorrow. It was this world in turmoil which the Labor Party sought to reconstruct. The Labor movement was a great religious movement, and stood for sometimes higher than mere material things. It was the only movement that gave real comfort and hope to the downtrodden masses of the world.

### Coming Industrial Strife.

The rumors of coming industrial strife on a grand scale, which have been current during the past week, are obviously highly speculative forecasts based on the following facts:—The doubtful course of the

railway negotiations. The probability that in the almost certain event of the Government adhering to its anti-nationalization attitude the direct actionists among the miners will ask the special Trade Union Congress in February to adopt a strike policy. The possibility of a deadlock in the negotiations on the claim of the dock and riverside workers for a standard wage of 16s. a day. The dissatisfaction in the engineering and shipbuilding trades with the recent 5s. increase award. The rumor of imminent trouble on the railways has been disposed of by Mr. Thomas, who expresses himself more hopefully about the new Government offer which he received on Saturday last and which is to be submitted shortly to a delegate meeting for consideration after certain obscure points have been elucidated in a future conference with the Government. Regarding the demands of the Transport Workers' Federation for the 16s. daily wage for dock workers, several of the interests concerned, including not only dock authorities but trading bodies, which fear that they would be adversely affected by any increase in the cost of handling goods have been busily organizing resistance. The unions have not pressed the matter forward hastily, but the

workers at many of the ports have recently manifested impatience.

### Waitresses' Revolt.

The waitresses and restaurant workers have joined the Women Workers' Federation, and at a meeting this week it was agreed to take action to enforce better wages and conditions of employment. The terms demanded include a 44-hour week, time and a half for overtime, and the adoption of a wage-scale ranging from £2 10s. to £3 5s. The wages are framed to allow workers dining out. The employers, who have made big profits during the war have stated they will not meet the union to discuss the workers' grievances, as they believe "the employees are satisfied with the terms and conditions" of their occupation.

### Threat to Strike.

Workers connected with the Scottish funeral hiring and coach and cab driving industry are this week balloting on the question of withdrawing their labor for the purpose of enforcing their demands for an increase of wages. An application for an increase, it is stated, was made to the employers as far back as September 3. But as no reply was forthcoming the men have decided to bring the matter to a decision. The conditions at present in vogue are said to be inferior to those in any other industry. Wages range from 27s per week in one section to 36s. in others, the highest rate paid by the firms concerned being 35s., plus a bonus of 1s. per

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funeral, giving an average wage of not more than £2 per week. The working day is stated to be anything from 10 to 14 hours.

### Operative Masons.

Representatives of the building industry describe as foolish the Premier's speech about dilution and the removal of union restrictions. They are certain that when they meet Mr. Lloyd George it will not take them long to convince him that he was "talking tosh", and had been misled by his informants. The Scottish Operative Mason's Association, who are represented on the Housing Committee of the Buildings Industrial Council, are convinced that the adoption of "priority" schemes will only retard housing, and that proposals accepted by the Government for a better distribution of work would do more for the erection of houses than the stoppage of luxury buildings.

### Pit Smithy Workers.

The Claims of the Scottish Colliery Smithy Workers for time-and-half for all overtime during the week, and double time for Sunday overtime, was discussed at a meeting between the Scottish Coal Owners and the Associated Blacksmiths' Society. After a long discussion, Sir Adam Nimmo, chairman of the Coal Owners' Association, offered time-and-a-quarter for all overtime. Mr. James Jarvie, the blacksmiths' delegate, said he could not accept this offer without consulting his members. The blacksmiths had delegates present from Linlithgowshire, Stirlingshire, Fifeshire, Lothians, Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, and Ayrshire.

### Dundee Bakers' Dispute.

Last Saturday strike notices to take effect in a week were issued on behalf of Dundee operative bakers. The dispute bears on the national agreement recently arrived at, it being contended by the operatives' union that the agreement does not suit the working conditions in Dundee, and that autonomy in regard to local disputes should be preserved. The masters state that the Dundee branch of the operatives' union has not implemented the clause in the national agreement by appointing seven members to act on the masters' and mens' committee for the settlement of district grievances. A series of demands have been made by the men, referring principally to a re-arrangement of hours and rates of pay.

James Gibson.

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and contentment.*



# HOW C. P. R. ENGINEER WON VICTORIA CROSS

It fell to the lot of a C.P.R. engineer Pte. John Peter Robertson to win the much coveted Victoria Cross at Passchendaele. Robertson enlisted at Lethbridge with the 175th and was an engineer on that division. He was better known as "Pete" to his Lethbridge friends. He was born in Pictou, Nova Scotia, but lived most of his life in Medicine Hat with his mother, Mrs. Alex. Robertson.

Robertson was aged thirty-four, won his distinction in connection with operations at Passchendaele, November 6, 1917. Details came through authoritative channels that during his battalion's attack Robertson's platoon was held up by uncut wire two hundred yards from the final objective. Our guns were still busy cutting a way through the wire when a German machine gun opened fire and inflicted very heavy losses on the Canadians. Robertson, without waiting for orders and entirely on his own initiative, rushed towards the German gun, defying the machine guns' withering fire. Moreover, our artillery barrage was so intense that death seemed almost certain. Working his way to the flank, he eventually found an opening in the wire, got through and crawled until the end of the

emplacement was reached. Rising suddenly to his feet he charged down on the astonished Germans, and killed four of the gun crew before they could recover from their surprise. The remainder fled in terror, but their flight was soon cut short when Robertson seized the abandoned gun, screwed it around and poured a hail of bullets upon the backs of the fast disappearing enemy. Several of them fell victims to their own weapon and others were caught by our shells. When the remainder of the platoon arrived Robertson was still firing the captured gun. It was entirely due to his heroic action that the whole line was enabled to advance and capture the final objective. Robertson went forward with the first wave, taking a gun with him. He used it very effectively to keep down the fire of German machine guns and snipers, while his platoon consolidated the new position. Later in the day when two or our snipers who ventured in front of our lines were wounded Robertson volunteered to bring them in. He went into the open, although exposed to a heavy enemy fire, lifted one man on his back and carried him safely to the trench and immediately returned to the second man, staggering back with his unconscious burden while



Pte. Peter Robertson  
WHO WON THE  
VICTORIA CROSS

the bullets whistled around him. But as if cruel fate were awaiting until the last possible moment to overtake him, he was killed on the very parapet of the trench, his mission almost accomplished. His splendidly heroic end, like his dash- ing work done earlier in the day, had a most inspiring effect.

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GEO. PIERCE, Editor. KENNEDY CRONE, Associate Editor.

## The Board of Adjustment

THE Montreal Gazette, distinguished as the official misinterpreter of the organized labor movement, played up to its distinction recently by getting a cross-eyed view of a declaration made by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. The Gazette said in effect that the Brotherhood had put itself on record as being opposed to the Railway Board of Adjustment No. 1, which is representative of employers and employees, and which, during and since the war, has settled many big and little troubles at round-table conference.

What the Brotherhood did say was that it "opposed the perpetuation of the Board of Adjustment by legislative enactment, inasmuch as such legislation would introduce the principle of compulsory arbitration to which the organization has repeatedly recorded its opposition". In other words, it objected to a voluntary board for the settlement of difficulties between employers and employees being turned into a compulsory machine. The Brotherhood members would be amongst the first to pay tribute to the work of the Board of Adjustment, and have no desire to see its excellent work abandoned or curtailed. They merely object, as they have always objected, to any proposal to compel the workers to take their cases before it and to accept its findings. On the other hand, members of the Brotherhood are of the opinion that if there were more Boards of Adjustment dealing with different trades as efficiently as the Railway Board of Adjustment has dealt with railway labor matters, there would be fewer strikes and infinitely better understanding between parties to labor disputes.

K. C.

## Women to the Fore

FROM England and from a southern state of the U. S. there came two interesting press despatches within the past ten days, both affording an argument for the claim of women to figure more and more in the ordinary activities of the world. In the first case, it was stated that a woman had been appointed a magistrate at Stalybridge, in Lancashire, and it may be that in this instance the old boast will be justified, "What Lancashire thinks today, England will think to-morrow", which was an old saying of the free trade school in Manchester. It was gratifying to note that the new magistrate began by dismissing all the cases that came before the court that day, all of which were petty infringements of by-laws. In Canada it would seem to be especially fitting that a beginning in this respect might be made with some of our juvenile courts, for on the whole women are brought into contact much more with children than are men and have a much more instinctive idea as to what motives and influence govern their actions. If the normal children in the primary schools can be instructed by women teachers, why should not the abnormal children guilty of offences be dealt with by women? But the first step towards permitting women to be magistrates has not been taken, since they are not even yet admitted to the bar.

Many years ago there was a woman's name which rang throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom; it was that of Grace Darling, the daughter of a lighthouse keeper who succeeded, at great personal peril, in saving a number of men from a ship that had been driven on to the shore. Her modern prototype has been found in Mrs. Oram, the wife of an American captain. Capt. Oram left Las Palmas for a port in Alabama. He was a sick man and his first mate left the ship at the last moment, so that the captain's wife was called upon to navigate the vessel on her husband's instructions. But final eight bells sounded for the sick skipper, and his wife amid a storm sent out signals of distress, which were seen, and the ship was brought into port by the one that responded.

Yet in this province women are still deemed unfit to exercise the provincial or municipal vote, though they have gained the federal vote.

A meeting of the members of the executive committee of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association will be held at 60 Dandurand Building on Monday, January 12th, at 8.15 p.m.

## I Am The Printing Press

I am the printing press, born of the mother earth. My heart is of steel, my limbs are of iron, and my fingers are of brass.

I sing songs of the world, the oratorios of history, the symphonies of all time.

I am the voice of today, the herald of tomorrow. I weave into the warp of the past the woof of the future.

I tell the stories of peace and war alike.

I make the human heart beat with passion or tenderness. I stir the pulse of nations, and make brave men do braver deeds and soldiers die.

I inspire the midnight toiler, weary at his loom, to lift his head again and gaze, with fearlessness, into the vast beyond, seeking the consolation of a hope eternal.

When I speak, a myriad of people listen to my voice. The Anglo-Saxon, the Celt, the Hun, the Slav, the Hindu, all comprehend me.

I am the tireless clarion of the news. I cry our joys and sorrows every hour. I fill the dullard's mind with thoughts uplifting. I am light, knowledge and power. I epitomize the conquests of mind over matter.

I am the record of all things mankind has achieved. My offspring comes to you in the candle's glow, amid the dim lamps of poverty, the splendor of riches; at sunrise, at high noon, and in the waning evening.

I am the laughter and tears of the world, and I shall never die until all things return to the immutable dust.

I am the printing press.



# THROW OPEN OUR SCHOOLS

By Rose HENDERSON.

This demand for throwing open our schools is growing more and more insistent. Its need is imperative and the good that would accrue therefrom would be the nation's greatest asset.

The schools are public property maintained through taxing the people, therefore, the will of the people should prevail, and from a business point of view they are entitled to full value for their money.

Millions of dollars have been sunk in school properties in this city, and the question is being asked by thoughtful citizens, "Are we getting full value out of our expenditures? Are our schools being used to full capacity, as they should be in view of the need; and if they are not what is the reason and who is to blame?"

The question of the opening of the schools has been up for discussion. For many years a little headway has been made. A few are open certain nights in the week for limited recreations, but there is lacking any real social organization to carry on the work, and a feeling exists that these schools are open under sufferance as a great privilege which may at any time be withdrawn, consequently many people do not know that even these slight privileges exist, and many of these who do feel they are usurers and therefore do not enjoy the privileges as they should.

There is no city on the continent where the need is so great for social centres as the city of Montreal. It is notorious for its infant mortality, for its congested slum quarters, for its civic corruption. Juvenile agencies point to the fact that the standard of morality and health is at a very low ebb.

Neither our schools, churches or home are apparently functioning to protect the youth from their own ignorance, the wolfish greed of money grubbers, nor the motley crew who feed like leeches on the poorest and weakest, and, consequently, the most helpless in the community.

If the congested districts of this city are not to become veritable hives of disease and iniquity, sending their pollution even into the homes of the smug-satisfied Pharisees, the sooner the doors of both schools and churches swing open the better, for, be it remembered in our complex civilization, there is no such thing as isolation. The slum population must live by work and their work consists of producing, cooking and serving our food, making and washing our clothing, cleaning and keeping in order the city's homes, offices and factories, participating in all and sundry occupations necessary to sustain life, produce profits and keep the wheels of commerce moving.

With the ever-increasing rents, an

increasing number of peoples of all nations, creeds and conceptions of morality and social ethics are indiscriminately herded together in our large industrial centres. The word home is but a mockery for thousands of these people who long to have an opportunity of self-expression and give to their children some of the advantages of a higher education which they were denied, owing to this uncivilized and unnatural way of living. The childish of fences which were raw and harmless in the small villages have increased alarmingly, taken on a much more evil tendency, and constitute a grave hindrance to the higher developments of the child, mentally, morally, and physically. In view of these facts, the school must be made to function more and more to counteract the influence of the street, the gutter and courtyard. I am sure that if a deputation of interested citizens were to wait at the "Great White Throne" and ask permission of the Creator to enter the colored and sacred precincts of the churches the command would be "Go Forth, bring in all my lambs, gambol and make merry, for ye serve me only inasmuch as these hungry, neglected needy little ones are protected and made happy, only when these temples of worship resound with the song and laughter of my little ones will, they be sacred in mine eyes. Then will I accept the gift from thine hands, for their songs are my praise, their joy and happiness my desire. Make ready gather in and help these children for of such is my kingdom." Will the churches listen before it is too late, or will they, like the symbolic figure of justice, continue to bandage their eyes and allow conditions to grow worse?

Amongst large masses of the city's population there is scarcely any resemblance between the homes of their grandparents and the average workingman's home of today. There is no provision for privacy, quiet or recreation for either the children or their parents. The noise and conversation of the neighbors on all sides of them can plainly be heard. There is usually one or more boarder taken in to reduce the rent. There is no room for either study or play for the younger children nor a place suitable for the older ones to bring their friends. There is neither books, pictures nor music to inspire ideals, entertain or develop the mind or the soul in most of these rookeries. How can the irresistible spirit of youth be confined between the unattractive, often repellent surroundings or be expected to develop a love for home or country, much less acquire the strength of character and social consciousness essential to good citizenship and future parent hood? It is clear this duty is involving more and more on the schools. If the homes as they are at

present constituted cannot function to properly cater to the needs of the growing family, the schools must be brought into greater use.

At present the schools are open about nine months out of the twelve, five days a week and not more than six hours daily, one hundred and thirty-eight hours monthly or thirty out of a hundred and sixty-eight hours a week. It is safe to say there is not a business plant in this city where the investment of capital is as large and which operates so little of the time except it be the churches. Whether the school operates or not the overhead expenses go on just the same, wherein lies the waste of the taxpayers' money, a waste which should not be tolerated and would not exist if the school board were elected instead of selected as now by the grace of goodness knows who. Had there been a few hard headed business men and a few hard handed working men on the school board it is safe to predict the question of throwing open the public schools for public use, would have been settled ere this.

There should be economic, political and citizenship classes, Social Literary and Musical Clubs, classes for the training of the illiterate parents of all nations. Classes in parent craft and home making, dancing and recreation for both the adults and young should be instituted.

If the schools were opened in the congested districts and catered to the needs of the young there would be fewer girls driven to immorality in search of companionship and fewer boys to pool rooms and gambling dens in search of legitimate amusements. We must either throw open our schools and let the peoples' children use them or continue our policy of closed doors and watch the coming generation develop criminal, anti-social habits, the whirlwind of which we must eventually reap.

We read in the press that the

Montreal High School, was filled to capacity on the occasion of the first of the series of dances. That the gymnasium hall which was used for the occasion, artistically decorated with flags, flowers and ferns and that the selection by the "Cyclone Jazz Band" were well received by the enthusiastic dancers. Well done for the High School; but why only the High School. Why is there not dancing in all our schools? What a joy it would be to Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Brown to be honored by the principal of a neighboring school with an invitation to be a patronesses for a coming dance! Why how quickly the dishes would be cleared away and the children put to bed in anticipation of a few hours enjoyment and a sense of their usefulness and importance. What a change and inspiration it would be for them to entertain and be entertained in an "Artistically decorated hall". Might they not also be tempted to trip the light fantastic while listening to the witching strains of the "Cyclone Jazz" and might there not be inspired in them a new sense of responsibility and citizenship which would be invaluable to the nation. There is not a more fitting place than the schools to build and foster good citizenship. Let the schools be open as they should be twelve hours out of the twenty-four. Let the young people who would otherwise be driven to the streets or cheap dance halls come in, dance and sing and find wholesome companionship under sympathetic guidance, such a move on the part of our school authorities would I believe reduce immorality and crime amongst the young five per cent. Then, and then only will the people and the taxpayers be getting their full value out of the money expended.

Throw open the schools and let the people come in.

Rose Henderson.

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## CABINET CHANGES

ONCE more there are Cabinet changes at Ottawa but it would be hard to dignify them by the name of reconstruction. In fact they may serve as symptoms of the mortification which has now set in beyond repair. There is a line in a well known hymn

*'Change and decay in all around I see'* which might well be applied to our Coalition. Major-General Mewburn, Minister of Militia, has resigned his seat in the Cabinet but will oblige his colleagues by not precipitating a by-election in the industrial constituency of Hamilton East. Simultaneously there is a curious shuffle in which Mr. Sifton and Mr. Burrell participate.

The former has been notoriously anxious to resign, partly for reasons of his health, which is far from good, and partly from a growing aversion of his colleagues. Mr. Sifton likes efficiency and decision, be they exercised for good or evil, and he sees scant signs of either in his vicinity. Apparently he could only consent to stay, if given a less exacting portfolio. The Secretaryship of State alone met his demands for ease, and even then it had to be separated from the Department of Mines which had been in Mr. Burrell's care and now goes to Mr. Meighen. So Mr. Sifton has been placated for the moment but no one knows how soon the winter of his discontent may again emerge and insist upon final retreat.

Mr. Burrell, who yearns for the comfortable haven of the Parliamentary Library, had little stomach for the Public Works Department. He is a refined and sensitive English exile and continual and daily contact with rough contractors and uncouth engineers, not to mention importunate deputations of notable citizens indignant at the neglect of their own locality by the P. W. D., would grate upon his soul. Besides the work in the P. W. D., is exacting and needs such close attention by its head that it would leave Mr. Burrell too little time for the golf and bridge tournaments at which he is such an adept. So he passed it by in favor of the less onerous Customs Department which he will adorn for a few months. Mr. Burrell does not lack experience of the art of government or at least ought not to for he has held three portfolios in all, Agriculture, State and Customs.

The Public Works Department is entrusted to the tender care of Mr. J. D. Reid, who will be acting Minister in what time he can spare from the Railway Department. Likewise Mr. Calder will attempt to manage both the Immigration and the Militia Departments.

Now, it happens that Messrs. Calder and Reid are the two electioneering experts of the Cabinet, and all their skill may be needed ere the year is out. But even the greatest brains can be overtaxed and it is manifestly both unfair and injudicious to load up the two Ministers, to whom the gods have given above all their col-

leagues skill in the arts of political manipulation, with double departmental duties.

Of course it may be argued that control of two departments will provide double opportunities for the exercise of their unrivalled powers. In the end there will probably be some concentration of departments. Immigration was born out of the loins of the Interior to provide a resting place for Mr. Calder in 1917 and Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment is an offshoot of the Militia Department. There is no longer any need for the separation in either case. But in the meantime two departments of the first rank are without a permanent parliamentary head. Reorganization of this kind simply infuriates those ardent Unionists who want it on a sweeping and permanent scale and the candid and able Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette once more launches some of his most pungent darts at his own party chieftains.

One strange fact has been passed without comment, that while all these changes are proceeding and there is such dearth of Ministers to man the jobs vacant, Mr. A. K. Maclean remains Minister without a portfolio. What he does for his salary is uncertain; at one time he was chairman of a Reconstruction Committee of the Cabinet which never met, and, later on, when Sir George Foster was

away in Paris settling the fate of the universe, he assumed with many sighs responsibility for the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Maclean, like Mr. Burrell, likes the primrose paths of life, and has an acute distaste for violent controversies either with political opponents or other departments, the latter being a favorite form of warfare at Ottawa. He is a pacifist in politics and probably feels that the headship of a department would involve him in conflicts contrary to his principles. He is personally, however, the most popular of the whole Union Cabinet and has the capacity of being able to adapt himself to any change of circumstances or vicissitudes of fortune without earning the hostility of his former friends. Messrs. Calder and Rowell are just as splendidly adaptable, but they lack the sweetness and disengaging candor of Mr. Maclean.

These modest arrangements accomplished, Sir Robert Borden has left for the south with the implied intimation that real cabinet reorganization will be tackled when he returns with his health restored. It is understood that he has provisionally accepted Lord Jellicoe's invitation to proceed to South Africa. Lord Jellicoe is not starting immediately, but will join the "New Zealand" at Havana after paying some visits in the United States. If Sir Robert finally decides to go a-sailing over the Southern main, he will embark there. But it might be well for him to consider the circumstances of South African politics ere he lands there from a British battleship.

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OPEN EVENINGS

For some years there has been in existence in South Africa a strong and growing Nationalist party which professes republican principles and is openly critical of the Imperial connection. Its leader is General Hertzog, who served with distinction on the Dutch side in the Boer War and was later on a member of Botha's Cabinet. At a Nationalist Convention at Bloemfontein on October 16 General Hertzog said the Union was faced with the alternative of becoming independent or sinking practically to the status of a Crown Colony. "The time was not yet ripe for active steps to achieve the country's independence, but they had the right to work till they could say: 'The time has now arrived'." He further declared that "he regarded the Union's constitution as nothing but a scrap of paper, which stated for the time being how the people of South Africa wished to be governed. But as soon as the nation's will changed, then it was for their Government, Parliament and king to alter the scrap of paper accordingly."

To combat these doctrines, General Smuts, on whom the untimely death of General Botha has laid a heavy burden, has deliberately set himself, and in pursuance of this end has been delivering a series of admirable speeches all over South Africa. In answer to the query whether South Africa had the right to secede from the British Empire, General Smuts lately said: "I think it is my duty to reply to that and my reply is absolutely and decisively, 'No'."

He has set forth with great clarity the arguments against secession, taking the double ground that it was a bad move from the purely material standpoint, and was also an infringement of the pact with the British Government which restored autonomy in 1906. But to strengthen his position the South African premier has emphasised his deep hostility to Imperialism, and any form of centralized Imperial parliament. His enemies denounce him as a fiery Imperialist who allows South African interests and liberties to be recklessly sacrificed at the bidding of Great Britain.

While this campaign is raging it is not likely that he will see with any enthusiasm the arrival at Capetown of a distinguished British Admiral bent on laying plans for the creation of a South African navy. General Hertzog is sure to seize upon the incident as proof that Britain is attempting to make use of South Africa

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for her selfish purposes and the visit will be hard to explain away. If Premier Borden lands with Lord Jellicoe, the Nationalist will suspect that he has come to add the weight of his authority to the plea for a South African navy and he might well embarrass by his presence General Smuts, with whom it is understood he formed a close friendship at Paris.

There will be banquets and dinners and speechmaking and Sir Robert will obviously be called upon to play his part — he could not in decency refuse. His audience will not be interested in local Canadian themes and there is only one subject which he will be expected to deal with, the future organization of the British Commonwealth.

If he evades it and talks meaningless platitudes, he will do damage to his own reputation and cast a slur upon the intelligence of the people who allowed him to be their Premier for eight years. If he deals with it, he will be compelled to side with General Smuts' viewpoint and will assuredly earn for himself the execration of the Nationalists, who some day may be in power.

Sir Robert may never hold office again, but he is the titular head of our government, and it would be wise for him as long as he is in that capacity to avoid at the present juncture the shores of a country where political controversy is so acute as in South Africa at present.

There have recently been elections held both in Australia and New Zealand. In Australia Mr. W. M. Hughes had during the war formed a Nationalist party by a coalition of the Labor wing which he led and the Liberals — there is no official Conservative party in Australia nowadays. Mr. Hughes is a strange being, a man of many wonderful qualities and many deplorable faults; he is able, eloquent, and sincerely democratic in many of his opinions, but he is also unscrupulous, vindictive and abominably Prussian in some of his methods. He is not popular with his allies, the Liberals, but neither could one do without the other.

Mr. Hughes was faced in most constituencies by the official Labor party which holds extreme radical views and in a few rural seats by farmer candidates. The accurate results are still in some doubt but it seems that the Nationalists led by him have secured just a bare majority in the House of Commons. They have elected 38 members against 29 Laborites and 7 farmers. If the farmers and labor form a working alliance, Mr. Hughes' position will be very difficult. It is unsafe to rely on press despatches which assert Mr. Hughes will have the support of the farmer members. The Labor party suffered through its open alliance with the Sinn Féin element in the country headed by the celebrated Archbishop Mannix. Mr. Hughes was a good war minister by reason of his energy and capacity for meeting emergencies but it is doubtful if he has the qualities necessary for successful statesmanship in time of peace. Between Mr. W. F. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward, leaders respectively of the Reform and Liberal parties, was

arranged for during the war, but was dissolved by mutual consent soon after the armistice. At the general election recently held, matters were complicated by the presence of a labor party. But Mr. Massey who is a shrewd and cautious type of politician, had evidently retained the confidence of his countrymen, for he was returned by a comfortable majority over both the Liberal and Labor parties. He was, however, advocating a very advanced radical programme which contained items of a nature to bring nervous paralysis upon any of the leaders of the two historic factions at Ottawa. There is evidence that the people of New Zealand are satisfied with the return to party government. Labor gained a few seats but the agricultural interests is still easily dominant.

But the country where the fate of a Coalition presents most parallels to our own political circumstances is Great Britain. The existing Cabinet is based upon Coalition which, as here, is composed in the main of Conservatives but contains a strong wing of Liberals. Our Premier is a Conservative, but the Premier Mr. Lloyd George, has always been regarded as one of the most advanced radicals of his day and generation. It is true that time has apparently mellowed his views since the days of the notorious Limehouse speech, but still he would deeply resent the suggestion that he was in any sense a Conservative.

The British Coalition existed during most of the war and secured a renewal of its mandate at a very unsatisfactory and deceitful election in December, 1918. The electorate was practically asked if they wanted to vote against the man who won the war, the Opposition was divided and uncertain of its plans and policies and there were no acute issues. The Coalition obtained an enormous parliamentary majority far out of proportion to the actual poll, but early in 1919 there were signs that the electors had repented of their whole-hearted endorsement. By-election after by-election has since gone against it and when an odd seat is saved there is great relief in Ministerial circles.

The results of three contests have been recently declared. At St. Albans, where a Conservative Coalitionist was returned unopposed, in a traditional Tory stronghold in 1918, a candidate of similar views only scraped in a three-cornered fight and would otherwise have been badly defeated. At Bromley, in Kent, the 1918 majority of 11,000 was pulled down to 1,100. On Jan. 2nd, came the worst blow of all, in the Spen Valley division of Yorkshire. In 1918 a Coalition Liberal carried it by over 2,000 votes. Now of three candidates the Coalition Liberal is the last though he received all the Tory support, and polls only a little more than one fourth of the votes, viz. 8,134. The Labor candidate wins with 11,962 and an Independent Liberal gets 10,244.

This result is clear evidence that the industrial north wherein the real

strength of England lies is irretrievably lost to the Coalition. Mr. Lloyd George continues to defend its existence on the ground that it promotes a necessary national unity during a critical time. His speeches have been coldly received in both camps of his host. The Liberal Coalitionists have pointed questions about the Dumping Bill and the Russian policy and the Tories demand how long the Premier is going to foist upon them radical measures like the Home Rule Bill and to keep on riding two horses at once when each is pulling in a different direction. As the London Nation says "the Coalition exists by virtue of a mere trick of suggestion. Mr. George asks his followers, Liberal and Tory, to look at black and white and declare the true tint of both colors to be grey."

He has managed to carry off the trick successfully for a year, but the game is almost up and many careful observers predict that there will be a general election in Britain in the near future to enable the country to choose Parliament more representative of its views. In Britain there always comes a time when a Government which has forfeited popular confidence finds that no matter how safe its parliamentary majority may be, it cannot successfully govern the nation.

There too, the party managers of a discredited party prefer to cut their losses and accept defeat. They argue that dissatisfied voters of their party will vote against them and, being disappointed in the new government will at once return to their old allegiance. Their indignation will have been satisfied by the single hostile vote. But if they are allowed to continue for three years in a hostile frame of mind, they may never come back. The Coalition managers at Ottawa should consider this contingency.

Sir Robert Borden has been playing the same game as Mr. Lloyd George. It was easy during the war but has become increasingly difficult since the armistice. In the Coalitionist shop in London, Mr. Lloyd-George looks after the Liberal customers and Mr. Bonar Law after the Tory ones. There is at least the merit of some personal attention from the chief owner.

But here at Ottawa, the chief owner is to go on a long holiday and "Our Mr. Meighen" will attend the Tory Customers and "our Mr. Calder" to the Liberals. Both Tory and Liberal Coalitionists will be asked to persuade themselves that they get the goods they fancy from a salesman whom they can trust. By skilful cajolery each side is to be induced to part with one of its principles in order to be sure of keeping some other. The result in both countries is that a minority of men, who got into power on a special issue now defunct are stultifying political life and reducing government to a farce.

The root of both Coalitions is a certain personal vanity and desire for continued power. Both countries have slipped into a bad form of personal government, which is quite contrary to their traditions. The Coalition at Ottawa only survives by reason of the fact that neither Liberalism or Toryism in this country is sincere, and the new democratic forces, which are mustering everywhere, are not quite ready for a grand assault. But the indefinite continuance of the present "Yea and Nay" business at Ottawa is steadily sapping such remnants of political virtue as still exist there and, until it is summarily ended, will be responsible for a steady deterioration in the public life of the country.

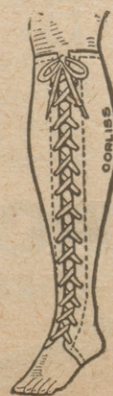
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## Our National Economic Problem

By E. W. BEATTY  
President Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

(From the Montreal Gazette)

Our national economic problem is not only to produce much, but to produce cheaply, and not only to produce much cheaply, but to be so quick and elastic in our marketing arrangements as to be able to sell our goods always in the most profitable of the world's various and constantly changing markets. The right of every Canadian to look forward to prosperity, that is, to plenty of work and wholesome work for a return that will maintain a decent standard of living and provide something for the rainy day, is thus related closely to the condition of the railways of this country. For our railways are the means of quick and regular deliveries to market. They are to Canada what an efficient conveyor system may be to a factory which has otherwise no advantage over its older competitor, saving it time and expense in moving material into the receiving rooms, or from one machine to another, or out again to the ultimate consumer. In short, the ability of our railways to handle any possible peak load of traffic, of any character, in any direction, at any time, and cheaply—is something vital to every worker with hand or brain, from the most obscure of farm districts to the largest of our industrial centres.

For example: the apple crop in a well-known Nova Scotian valley exceeded the estimate of the authorities by almost 75 per cent. Instead of something over one million barrels—two million. Frost following close on the harvest reduced the time during which the apples could be moved in ordinary cars. Furthermore, the market for these apples, instead of lying largely in the United Kingdom, as in other years, developed with practically no warning in the United States and in Central and Western Canada. In other words, prices overseas had gone down; American bids were high. The difference between a large profit or a small profit to Canada on the year's work of these Annapolis Valley apple-growers became almost entirely a matter of railway service.

In place of a normal crop to be hauled a few miles to the seaboard in ordinary cars, an unprecedentedly large crop had to be hauled in special refrigerator cars to distant cities in the United States and Canada. Details are not necessary. The crop, I may say, is still in process of being moved, but the peak load, which has passed, could never have been handled had the Canadian transportation machine not been the super-

rior organization it is. The apple-growers in this case were served by a small railway company which had never before known a similar crisis. Almost two million barrels had to be moved, 225 barrels per car. Through the Railway Associations of Canada, that is, the old Canadian Railway War Board, the larger associates of this small railway, the Grand Trunk, Canadian National, and Canadian Pacific, scoured the Dominion to get together a supply of refrigerator cars—already scarce owing to the detention of Canadian refrigerators in the United States—to meet this extraordinary demand. These cars were gathered even from the very ends of the transcontinental lines. They were rushed to the Canadian National at Montreal and by the Canadian National forwarded to the small local carrier to which I have referred. Instead of recording in the Government Blue Books for 1919 an export of so many dollars' worth of apples, Canada will be able to show an export much higher, due very largely to the efficiency of the railroads.

This is the kind of service the Canadian railways have been giving, and are still able to give Canada. There was no breakdown during the war, though every other country had to make radical readjustments, no failure when the signing of the armistice in November, 1918, brought about great changes in the character and direction of traffic. Between November, 1918, and October, 1919, they handled 271,500 returning soldiers through the ports of St. John, Halifax, and Portland, a movement involving 827 special trains; traversing over 2,427,162 train miles. I may add that a greater degree of comfort was assured each soldier on his homeward journey through Canada than was even attempted by either the United States or Great

Britain. The return of commercial confidence after the first uncertainties of peace, and the change in freight traffic back to the lines of development which had been interrupted four and a half years before by the outbreak of war, was met without difficulty. Threatened labor troubles in March, 1919, were successfully dealt with by joint action through the Canadian Railway War Board (now The Railway Association of Canada). The settlement involved, it is true, serious but unavoidable outlays by the railways. It was effected about two months ago, but with no corresponding increase in railway rates. A strike of bituminous coal miners in the United States had no more serious reflection in Canada than a minor and temporary reduction in passenger train service. Canada, through the foresight of most of her railways in providing large stocks of fuel in advance, was able to avoid the serious freight embargoes which elsewhere were the result of the strike.

So much for the manner in which the transportation machinery of the country is carrying out its obligations to the Canadian producer. Other aspects of the transportation problem are less satisfactory. There are many people who look upon Canadian railways as custodians of magic fortunes which cannot be exhausted. That bookkeeping should be as simple and inexorable in its tale of losses and vanished profits to a railway as it may be to a corner grocer, is to these people unthinkable. It apparently does not occur to them that to no public is it more important than to the Canadian public that the good reputation of its railway securities in the world of thrift and investment should be carefully

guarded. To those, however, who view the matter from the standpoint of broad public interest, it is at once apparent that the Canadian public pays a very low rate for the quality of service rendered, and that a time is rapidly approaching when, if Canadian railway securities are not to be made less desirable to investors than almost any other kind of industrial security, railway rates will either have to go up, or railway operating costs go down. Such persons recognize that it is not because the situation of the railways is an easy one that certain companies have been able to show net earnings—very low net earnings compared to the actual cash invested in the industry—but because in the past the shareholders of such companies have been, as they are today, courageous persons willing to supply the means of constructive enterprises in which no one but themselves had faith, and because, too, their officers have been skilled, resourceful and loyal business men, assisted by staffs filled with the spirit of pride and devotion to their work. This, indeed, is the thing which has made it possible for Canada's railroads to function successfully during the war without making anything like the demands that foreign roads—less efficient in serving their community, yet earning the same rates and paying the same wages—have made upon their public exchequers. I do not believe that this strain upon the railways and this tendency to weaken the general reputation of Canadian railway securities should continue. The servant after all is worthy of his hire, and railway capital is not less worthy a servant than other forms of capital whose earnings have not been so consistently depressed.

The net earnings during the war years, of those companies which showed net earnings, would have been much lower had the Canadian railroads been making expenditures for maintenance which circumstances would have justified, but which conditions prevented during that period. These arrears have now to be made up. During 1919 the Canadian Pacific laid 70,000 tons of steel rail. In place of, say, 2,000,000 ties, worth 44c in 1914, the Canadian Pacific laid 4,434,000 ties at 85c per tie. The sensational advance in the rate of railway wages is well known. Further advance may be necessary within the very near future, as indicated by discussions in the United States. The price of coal for locomotives was \$3.09 in 1913. Now it is \$4.77. The cost of hauling an average train (freight or passenger) one mile has risen from \$1,604 in 1913 to \$2,494 in 1918. It is higher today. The operating expenses of one mile of line in 1915 were \$4,152; in 1918, \$7,046, and today they are even greater. On the other hand, railway rates, taking all classes of revenue together, have advanced scarcely 25 per cent. I venture to say no other industry in the Dominion can show much moderation.

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## British Manual and Brain Workers Co-operating for Better Conditions

—Glasgow. The dawn of another year makes one look back as well as forward. To us in the homeland the gratifying feature is the linking up of the manual and brain workers in the fight for better conditions of life; in bringing nearer that new world we were called upon to prepare for at the close of the great war. The past year has been remarkable in the fact that the workers of all classes have realised more and more the necessity for unity. That unity has brought success which many of us were beginning to despair of ever seeing. For labor the future holds bright prospects. In Scotland, for example, it is now officially possible to state the Labor gains in the civic elections. Almost 300 seats were won on the Parish Councils, 154 on the Town Councils, and 45 on the County Councils, making a total of 499 gains. There are approximately 700 Labor and Socialist representatives on the local governing bodies, an indication of labor's great progress in Scotland. In England the Labor gains were greater, and the workers now only wait the opportunity of a Parliamentary election to indicate the power that now lies behind them.

These thoughts have been brought home to me by the victory of the Army and Navy Stores strikers, perhaps the most dramatic and significant success achieved by "black-coated unionism", which I am sure will give a fillip to a movement which has developed several remarkable features during the past year or two. It will also help materially to break down the last of those curious social barriers which have so far prevented the complete organisation of certain classes of wage earners whose occupation demands a different standard of personal appearance from that of the toilers in mines or factories. I refer particularly to clerks (who have several well-defined groups,) shop assistants, and workers of a professional or semi-professional type (actors, teachers, journalists, etc.) whose interests are not watched over by corporate bodies like those of the close professions. It is interesting to notice the varying progress made in these occupations.

The National Union of Teachers has succeeded in bringing within its fold nearly all the teachers whose inclusion it has striven for. To the trade unionist purist some of its characteristics and tendencies appear conservative, but events have shown it can be aggressive when occasion rises. On the whole the teachers have exhibited less of the snobbishness and sense of class distinction which, with many workers, had their tragic-comic

side before the war. The task of building up the various unions to which these workers have flocked since the war began was almost heartbreaking to the pioneers of the early years. Most poorly paid clerks, shop assistants, etc., foolishly but sincerely believed that if they followed the example of industrial workers by banding themselves together in strong unions, and initiating well organised campaigns to improve their conditions

of life, they would be guilty of some grave social transgression. "Bring ourselves down to the level of navvies or bricklayers? Never!" This attitude was typical; it is recalled merely to indicate the sweeping change of outlook and temperament due to the pressure of the economic effects of the war.

Naturally the quickest growth in organized strength has been among those groups of workers having the closest community of interest. Thus, while the National Union of Clerks has still a great field of propaganda open in the numerous and very varied commercial offices of the country the Railway Clerks' Association, the National Union of Journalists, and

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Actors' organization have largely consolidated their forces, with much profit to themselves. But the National Union of Clerks and the Shop Assistants' Union are unable to secure the wholesale acceptance of their wages and conditions programme. Yet these unions register rapid progress. The more enlightened employers have accepted the modest minimum standards asked for, and the influence of example is steadily pervading other employers. The effect is seen in the remarkable growth of the various unions numerically.

The National Union of Clerks has more than doubled its membership during the war. The Railway Clerks' Association has jumped from 30,000 in 1914 to round about 100,000 today. Even the Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association, one of the strongest of the 'black-coated unions' before the war, has increased from 20,000 to over 30,000. The shop assistants have multiplied their number swiftly, and recently 3,000 new members were admitted in one month. The organizational development of these classes is not limited to growth of union membership. The tendency increases towards alliance with industrial labor. The recent amalgamation of the postal unions brings the clerks into one body along with other classes of postal workers. The National Union of Journalists recently joined the Printers' Federation, and although the Railway Clerks' Association shows no strong desire at present to merge with the National Union of Railwaymen, the two societies will certainly work more closely together in future.

All this is very encouraging, and the news of such progress must be very gratifying to the workers in Canada, many of whom, I know, are interested in the old country. I also know that good progress has been made out there, but this message is one of hope and faith in the future of the workers, out there as well as here. Let each wage-earner see to it that his class has a union, and after it has been made as strong as possible link up with others who will help us all to take our proper place in the world. It is worth fighting for. Our ideals are the outcome of mental agony, and the dawn of hope of betterment. We want some of the happiness and spare time that in the past we have had to work that others might enjoy. Be steadfast and loyal. Our day is coming, and is much nearer at hand than many suspect.

James Gibson.

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It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

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To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

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## OUR LONDON LETTER

**L**ABOR in Great Britain goes into the New Year with a notable triumph to its credit in the joint central scheme which the railwaymen have been able to extract from a not too willing Government. Details have to be ratified by a National Union of Railwaymen conference in the course of a few days. Its great value is in the lever it gives to all classes of workers towards demanding a share in the management of their own affairs.

It may, without the slightest exaggeration, be described as the most conspicuous success organized industry in this country has accomplished during 1919.

Briefly, there are to be set up two wages boards, one called the "Central" and the other the "National Board." On the former are to sit five representatives of the railway companies and five from the three railway unions. The National Board will have upon it four nominees of the companies, four of the railwaymen and four of the users of the railways. But in regard to the third quartette Labor has done particularly well also, for one is to be sent by the Trades Union Congress, and one by the Co-operative Union which is now linked with Labor in a fashion more definite than ever before. The remaining two come from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Associated Chambers of Industries.

The procedure proposed is that matters in dispute shall be first placed before the Central Wages Board. If that body is unable to settle it to the general satisfaction, the question goes to the National Board and for the space of one month there is to be no strike in order that the disputed points shall have time to be fairly discussed and no allegation of holding the nation to ransom without just cause shall be possible.

These Boards are not to meddle with wages and conditions negotiations arising out of the late dispute, because these are progressing well, despite the alarmist reports which the scaremongers are from time to time wantonly circulating.

The latest and most widely feared of these rumors was that the railwaymen were coming out either at Christmas or early in the New Year. The simplicity of its origin does not excuse, but only emphasises its crass stupidity. It has been discovered that the Food Ministry over here, which alternately controls and decontrols prices in the most panic-stricken fashion, and changes its policy as to certain articles of home necessities pretty nearly every Tuesday and Thursday, has conceived a brilliant notion. It was to send out a circular letter to local administrators requiring them to "take every precaution" against possible rail trouble about this time. The circular became semi-public property with the result that the deluded public, not unnatural-

ly, connected this with the negotiations I have mentioned, guessed that these were breaking down, and arrived at the deduction that a strike was coming. The railwaymen had never thought of striking! It took a plain, unequivocal statement to that effect from their chief, Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., to convince the perturbed people of Great Britain that the stories we are all so much moonshine.

The railwaymen are far too busy consolidating and re-organizing to take direct action just now. They have this week created a new and important office of industrial secretary in the National Union of Railwaymen and selected for the position Mr. Concomore T. Cramp, their popular president and one of the strongest fighters in the organization. The post carries with it a salary of £800 per annum, rising by annual increments of £100 to £1000. This new and powerful official was until the other day a working guard, although naturally his duties as president did not allow him much time to wave the green flag. He is going to be one of the biggest figures in British trade unionism and stands for nationalization of the industrial services, abolition of militarism, evacuation of Russia.

Mention of nationalization suggests the great campaign which our miners are renewing for State ownership of mines and minerals. A hundred meetings are to be addressed between now and the end of February and Labor is so absolutely at one in this vital question that it is bound to be a tremendous issue at the next general Parliamentary Election, whenever it comes. Coal is, indeed, one of the difficult problems of the Lloyd-George Government. With a flourish of trumpets we were told it was about to limit the mine-owners' profits to 1/2 (one shilling and two pence) a ton and then it ran away helter-skelter because Labor refused to accept the proposal on the ground that, as it was to obtain only until the end of March, this was but a miserable temporary expedient and would eventually leave matters in a more hopeless muddle than ever. Nothing less than nationalization, says Labor, can be of any avail to lift this essential industry and necessity of the people out of the morass of mismanagement into which it has fallen. The whole land is wondering to what lengths Labor is prepared to go in order to attain this end, and dire are the forebodings in certain timorous hearts, but for the moment action is likely to be political rather than industrial. But Labor has fully made up its mind it is not going to be balked. It would be the sheerest foolishness for legislators or vested interests to entertain a shred of doubt on that score.

At the moment we have only one serious industrial trouble — the strike of the moulders. It began three months ago and, though the funds of their unions are exhausted and the strikers are living on contributions

from other organizations, we seem unable to see our way to a settlement. For commerce the effect is exceedingly serious. Bereft of their usual output of castings, foundries are unable to fulfil the orders from the home country and abroad, which have been piling up on the office desks. Roughly speaking a hundred thousand men are unemployed — directly or indirectly through this dispute. The moulders, dissatisfied with an award of a 5/ (five shillings) a week advance, demand 15/ (fifteen shillings). The Engineering Employers' Federation declared for a long time they would not budge an inch beyond the award, and, though they have wavered slightly from that position, are not yet prepared to come anywhere near the requirements of the men. Had it not been for the strike; according, to the Ministry of Labor the percentage of employment in Britain would be less than at any period during the last ten years. Instead, we have motor cars ordered and unable to be built, machinery badly wanted to replace that worn out during the war, repairs waiting and long overdue and manufacturers creeping snail-like along instead of leaping forward to help liquidate the huge national expenditure of the last six years.

It is hindering a particularly hopeful scheme which Labor forced the Government to accept. This was no less than to utilize the vast resources of Woolwich Arsenal, the great national gun factory for peace-time purposes, by turning them on to the making of locomotives and waggons. This will be done as soon as the dispute is over. Already it has turned out some thousands of milk churns, where cannons and bullets used to grow, and some of these have been shipped to Canada.

Ben Tillett's dockers are engaged in endeavors to get their wages in the Port of London raised to 16/ (sixteen shillings) a day. Here the ship-owners and the waterside magnates are disputing the claim with all the accustomed vehemence of their class, but the dockers have behind them the pledged strength of the Triple Alliance — two and a half millions of transport workers, railwaymen and miners — and it is likely to prove a notable trial of strength.

One of the most remarkable of recent features is the wonderful strides being made by the shop assistants. This class of workers, for long time too "respectable" to fight for economic freedom, have just won a remarkable victory in London. The Army and Navy Stores, one of the large emporia of the metropolis, was run by a directorate chiefly composed of "dug out" generals and colonels, with an odd admiral or two, on lines which might have been expected in the old Army of their subaltern days, but would never be tolerated in that which beat the Germans. Certainly it could not be allowed to continue under a system of modern trade unionism. Employees were paid less than the municipal deskmen and expected to dress as well as their middle-class and semi-aristocratic customers. Irritating restrictions prevailed and the state of affairs was such that the



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Press and public for once agreed that it must come to an end. Four thousand or so of these employees walked out — and in three days the fight was over. It will cost those directors over £100,000 a year in extra wages.

Note the sequel. As I write firms in the West End of London are simply tumbling over each other to come to terms with the Shop Assistants' Union, and behind the counter sweating conditions in London have had such a shaking as never before.

The most statesmanlike decision Labor has made lately is just announced. It is to send a delegation of six members of the Parliamentary Party to Ireland to make first-hand investigation into the condition of that long distressed land. Ordinary news from Ireland is always suspect of political coloring and Labor is determined the real truth shall be known. With this end in view all shades and descriptions of opinion are to be consulted, Home Rulers and their Ulster opponents alike, and Sinn Fein will have its chance to put its case. The Irish in the House of Commons — those who sit, of course; Sinn Fein does not — have agreed to support Labor over here and it is but fitting that Ireland's great hope for self-determination shall have the assistance of the British Labor Party in realizing its delayed fulfilment. Especially with fresh Irish proposals promised by the Premier facts are what the British people most desire about their Irish brothers and sisters.

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